

## IRRADIATION AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR METHYL BROMIDE TREATMENT

Dr. Thomas E. Ward  
Technology Director  
RAIES International Corporation  
Russian-American Ionizing Energy Services, Inc.  
Arlington, Virginia

The Russian-American Ionizing Energy Services (RAIES) International Corporation, comprised of a consortium of North American, European and Russian partners, has established a joint venture to construct and operate commercial plants, using conventional ionized energy (i.e. Cobalt 60 irradiation) technology, to sterilize Russian timber, including logs, wood chips and green lumber for export to the U.S., Japan and other markets. This paper will only address one use of irradiation as a substitute for methyl bromide treatment, that of raw-wood product imports. The phytosanitary requirements for raw wood imports from Russia into Japan presently require methyl bromide treatment for insects and certain blue stain fungi. Substitutes to methyl bromide treatment will need to be developed and approved quickly in order to meet the deadline for the phase-out to use a mixed treatment of ionizing energy and a co-biocide as a substitute for methyl bromide phytosanitary quarantine treatment of raw wood imports into Japan. The present paper will discuss a) the technical and scientific aspects of the proposed treatment, b) the market competitiveness of the mixed treatment, and c) the overall scope of the RAIES project.